Discount on loading of goods

3491. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite improvement in turn-around time of wagons and the cost advantage it offers, the Railways have still not found enough goods to carry in its wagons;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Railways have decided to extend 15 per cent discount on loading till November, 2006; and

(c) if so, the reasons for this kind of a situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Doubling of Lucknow-Varanasi Rail Line

†3492. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of doubling of railway track between Lucknow and Varanasi;

(b) whether it is a fact that the present work is running far behind schedule;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and steps taken to remove hurdles coming in the way of availability of funds; and

(d) by when the doubling work would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The work of doubling on Lucknow-Varanasi section has been taken up in phases. At present, the doubling works are in progress on Utraitia-Chandrauli (28 kms.), Sultanpur-Bandhua Kalan (9 kms.) and Zafrabad-Srikrishna Nagar (34 kms.) sections where earthwork and bridge works have been taken up.

(b) The work is progressing as per availability of resources.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) A number of initiatives have been taken to mobilize other than normal budgetary resources to expedite completion of ongoing projects.

(d) Double line already exists between Lucknow-Utraitia and Zafrabad-Varanasi sections. The doubling works which are in progress on the above mentioned sections are targeted for completion during 2005-06. The balance doubling of 148 kms. of Lucknow-Varanasi is under process of approval.

Modernisation of Stations in Assam

3493. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway stations modernised in the State of Assam during the last three years;

(b) the details of funds allocated, released and utilized for this purpose during this period; and

(c) the number of railway stations proposed to be modernised in the State during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS: (a) At 59 stations, augmentation of "Passenger Amenities" have been done inconnection with Modernisation of stations.

(b) The Railway Budget is prepared Railway zone-wise and not State-wise. Similarly, it is not possible to work out the figures of allotment/ expenditure for each individual Railway station since number of works for provision of passenger amenities at various stations are clubbed on the basis of various categories like types of amenities proposed, Railway Zone/ Division under which the stations fall etc. Improvement/augmentation of amenities for passenger at stations including works of up gradation of station as model station are carried out under plan head "Passenger Amenities". As Northeast Frontier Railway serve the State of Assam. The allocation/expenditure under plan head "Passenger Amenities" during last three years under Northeast Frontier Railway is under:—